

build the SBIRs-Low system anyway. We are working on a technology here with ground-based interceptors that are complementary to the technology we use for theater missile defense systems. Everybody agrees that is a need we need to develop; and it will be proved to be useful, I think, to have a system on the ground which can be tested continually and improved incrementally.

But having said that, having said that, I want to say, I do not think we should be so zealous to deploy any system that we deploy a substandard system that has not been tested and tested rigorously or else we will find ourselves on a rush to failure.

Finally, I think we need to be realistic. We are soon going to get a defense budget from the Pentagon. We are told it could be to \$200 billion to \$300 billion to \$400 billion more than the \$2 trillion we have already provided in the FYDP for the next 6 years. We need to be realistic about not only the acquisition costs but the life cycle costs of a ballistic missile system.

I do not think NMD deserves a trump card in our budget. It is time, I think, that we in the Congress and elsewhere in the government stopped treating BMD, ballistic missile defense, as a political totem. That is what it has become, a political totem like no other weapon system we have ever seen.

It is time for us to start treating this just as any other weapon system. It does not need cheerleaders. It does not need pallbearers, what BMD, what NMD needs is candor. It needs to be held to the same standards of feasibility, cost effectiveness as every other weapon system we buy and deploy.

If we are going to sell this system to others, our allies, our adversaries, our former adversaries, to Russia, we need to have unity or some cohesion among ourselves, bipartisan unity.

I think if we stay within these bounds, we can build that kind of bipartisan consensus. We should never lose sight of this fundamental fact. We have got a rough, rocky relationship with the Russians right now, but we are making progress.

While we can work with Russia, we should work with Russia to secure their missile systems, to secure their nuclear and fissile materials. And bear this in mind, a critical point, through programs like Nunn-Lugar and the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, we have helped to deactivate so far 5,288 Russian warheads, 419 long-range missiles, and 367 silos. These numbers, what we have accomplished under these cooperative programs, dwarf the number of warheads that even the most robust NMD system could have handled or could have stopped.

We have only begun in that effort. We do not want to diminish that effort and leave ourselves less secure rather than more secure, that is why I plead to the President not just for the statement of policy, but also for balance and also ask him to make a bipartisan ef-

fort founded on consensus and not just on the unilateral position that his administration is pursuing.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Dr. Laudis H. Lanford, The Methodist Home for Children and Youth in Macon, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

The Lord be with you, and for our Jewish friends, Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Elohanu, Adonai Echad.

Oh Lord, my God, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth. Your handiwork is to be exalted and praised before the people. How awesome You are in everything and everywhere. Your love for us is greater than the east is from the west, yes greater than the number of stars in the sky and grains of sand along our shores.

Humble us this day, O God, that we might pause and recognize who You are within our lives and reflect upon the bountiful blessings that You bestow upon us.

Forgive us when we have failed to be obedient to You, both in word and deed. And forgive us when we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, O God, when we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. And free us for joyful obedience to You and service to others.

And like Jabez, we call upon You, the God of Israel, saying, O that Thou wouldest bless us indeed, enlarge our coast, that Thine hand might be with us; that Thou wouldest keep us from evil, and that it may not grieve us. Grant, O God, that which we humbly request. Charge to keep I have, a God to glorify, a never dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARCIA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST CHAPLAIN, DR. LAUDIS H. LANFORD

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to have Dr. Laudis H. Lanford as the guest chaplain in the House today. My good friend, Rick Lanford, is vice president for development at the Methodist Home for Children and Youth in Macon, Georgia, where he is affectionately known as "Daddy Rick."

Dr. Lanford is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta and Candler School of Theology, where he received a Master of Divinity, and the McCormick School of Theology, where he received a Doctor of Ministry.

Rick's love of the Lord is exhibited in his everyday life, but no place more than in his work with the 110 orphaned and abused children at the Methodist Home.

Rick has made a strong commitment to his community and his State. He is chaplain for the Macon City Police, the Bibb County, Monroe County, and Jones' County Sheriff's Department. He is also chaplain for the Georgia Sheriff's Association and serves on the Gang Awareness Task Force Committee.

Dr. Lanford changes lives of young people in our part of the State every day. I am proud to have him here today, but I am even more proud to call him my good friend.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order on Wednesday, May 2, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PENSION REFORM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, retirement is something every American needs to prepare for, but with the prices of everything from college educations to